

Claims 22-24 and 26-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,026,129 to Courtot. In addition, claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courtot in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,193,616 to Sarson et al. Applicant will argue the inapplicability of these rejections to the amended claims.

Independent claim 22 recites a swivel for an industrial robot which comprises, among other features, “two coaxial, mutually rotatable members and having **a plurality of means** for transferring and/or controlling media between the members” (emphasis added). In other words there is a plurality of flexible hoses or cables between the two coaxial, mutually rotatable members.

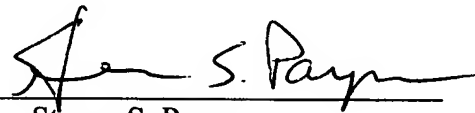
Courtot discloses a swivel joint with helically wound flexible hose attached to housing members. As illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, Courtot has a single hose which is wrapped around the axis of the housing and attaches to a single opening in each end of the housing. It is respectfully submitted that Courtot does not disclose, teach or suggest a swivel which has a plurality of hoses connected between the two coaxial, mutually rotatable members as is recited in claim 22. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Courtot does not disclose, teach or suggest a swivel which has “a plurality of through connection holes” in both the cover and the lower connection ring as is recited in claim 29. Finally, it is respectfully submitted that Courtot does not disclose, teach or suggest a swivel wherein flexible hoses or cables are connected generally axially to a central shaft of the cylindrical housing when the rotatable members are in a non-rotated position as is recited in new claim 32.

For at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22-25 and 26-32 are not anticipated by Courtot. Since Sarson et al does not overcome the deficiencies of Courtot as described above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 25 is patentable over the combination of Courtot and Sarson et al.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of same is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview may expedite the prosecution of the Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the below attorney at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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